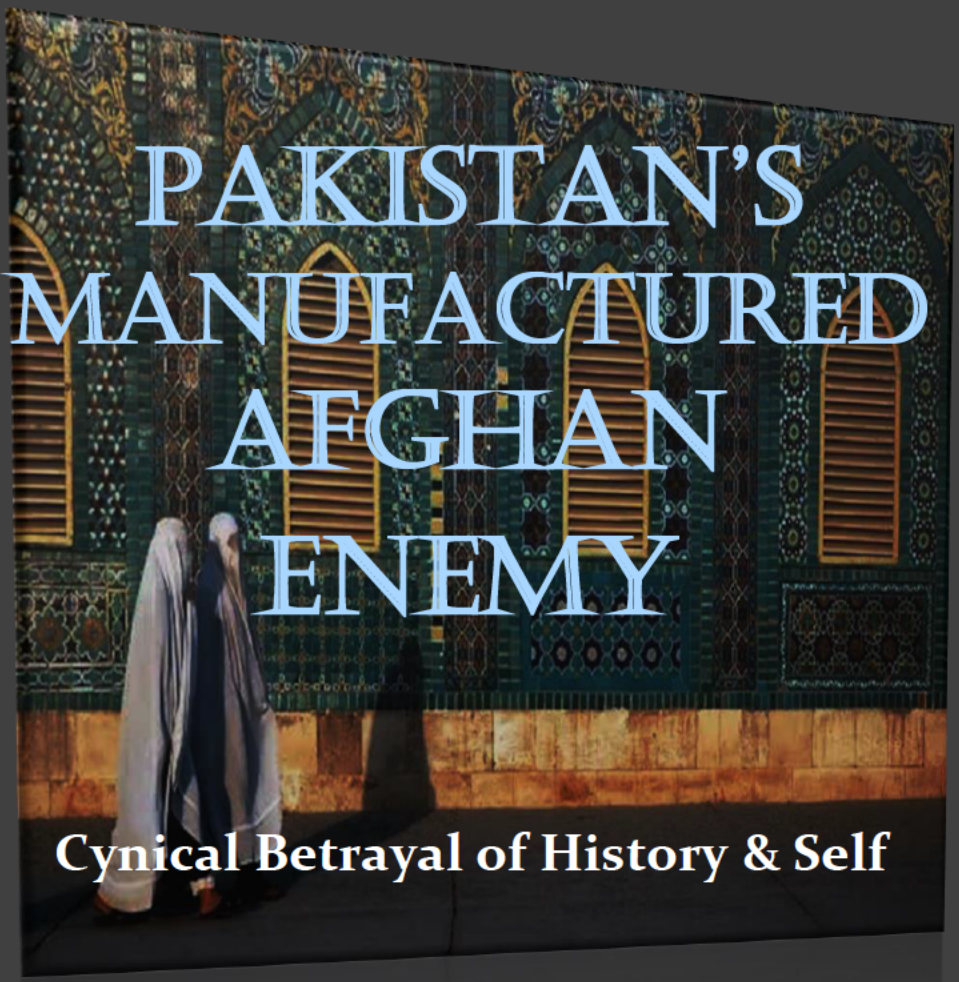

PAKISTAN'S MANUFACTURED AFGHAN ENEMY

Cynical Betrayal of History & Self

Arbaz Khan

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To speak of Afghanistan is to speak not of an isolated land, but of a crossroads, a palimpsest upon which the grand narratives of empires, faiths, and caravans have been inscribed for millennia.

Its destiny was carved by connection; its famed cities, Balkh, the venerable Mother of Cities, Herat, the western pearl, and Bamiyan, with its silent, monumental witnesses, once thrived as cosmopolitan arteries of the ancient Silk Road. Through its majestic passes flowed more than just Chinese silk and Persian silver; there coursed the very lifeblood of civilization: the syncretic grace of Buddhist art, the intellectual rigor of Hellenistic thought, and the soaring revelations of Islamic science.

Afghanistan's strength was its profound interconnectedness, an identity forged in the cauldron of cultural confluence, not the brittle confines of a nation state.

This innate geography of unity was systematically fractured by the cold, calculating architectonics of colonial power. The British Raj, in its pursuit of a sterile buffer against the Russian bear, inflicted the Durand Line in 1893. This was an act of cartographic violence that carved through the living heart of Pashtun and Baloch homelands. It's no natural frontier, but a deliberate political incision designed to Balkanize potential resistance. No Afghan government has ever recognized this line as legitimate, viewing it instead as a colonial imposition that severed ancient lands and tribes.

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The hardening of this artificial boundary was then catastrophically accelerated by the great game of superpower rivalry. The Afghan Jihad of the 1980s, a massive, CIA backed covert operation channeled with precision through Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) weaponized these very divisions. The Durand Line became a secure conduit for funneling billions in arms and money, deliberately empowering the most radical Islamist factions. The strategy was devastatingly effective in expelling the Soviets, but the blowback was a whirlwind of ruin. It left afghans as a shattered nation with over a million dead, a culture awash in Kalashnikovs, and the eventual rise of the Taliban. The very militancy Pakistan now decries is a direct consequence of a war it instrumentalized for its own strategic depth.

The onus for mending these fences, therefore, rests not with the victims in Kabul, but with the architects in Islamabad.

It is upon this fractured stage, laden with the ghosts of imperial gambits and proxy wars, that we now witness a perilous and cynical new act unfold. The state machinery, in servile allegiance to external hegemonic designs, is engaged in a systematic campaign to recast Afghanistan as Pakistan's existential foe.

بھارت کو سبق سکھا سکتے ہیں تو افغانستان مسئلہ ہی نہیں پاکستان

This criminal and deliberate, reshaping of perception is not a policy born of national interest but a calculated betrayal that promises nothing but internal fracture and regional conflagration.

The forced deportation of peace loving, Pakistan born Afghans, uprooting lives under the cold pretext of national security. Watching government controlled channels, sold out journalists, scheming politicians, and the irresponsible mouthpiece of a compromised military leadership; the ISPR, spew venom against a brotherly nation is a masterclass in manufacturing consent for a future conflict. It is a shameful, methodical dismantling of a region's soul for a patron's applause.

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The mechanism to obscure this history is a well-trodden playbook, refined in conflict zones across the world. It begins with the control of narrative, where a state influenced media ecosystem amplifies isolated incidents into a

cacophony of threat, consistently portraying Afghanistan not as a wronged neighbor bound by inextricable historical, cultural, and religious ties, but as an enemy entity. This is complemented by the most insidious tool of all: the indoctrination of the young. The phenomenon is not unique; one need only recall videos from a decade ago showing Israeli schoolchildren being purposefully brainwashed to view Palestinians as inferior, a formative conditioning that has borne its bitter fruit in the impunity of grown soldiers who literally chase and murder unarmed, hapless Gazans; Palestinian women and children... without remorse or regret.

In Pakistan, this pedagogical project is executed with chilling precision. Through state mandated curriculum, schoolchildren are taught a history purified of inconvenient truths. The colonial violence of the Durand Line is erased, while the Afghan Jihad is glorified, obscuring Pakistan's role as its primary architect and the ensuing blowback. The military is sanctified as the nation's sole guardian, and its doctrine of seeking strategic depth in Afghanistan is normalized as a strategic necessity. This academic conditioning is then amplified by a media ecosystem that tirelessly echoes these themes, framing Afghanistan as an ungrateful and hostile entity. The constant, state driven othering of Afghan refugees, portraying them as a criminal burden rather than a humanitarian responsibility, provides the visceral, daily reinforcement of this prejudice.

The objective is clear: to manufacture a generation that instinctively views its western neighbor not as kin, but as a perpetual threat, thereby securing public acquiescence for a future of endless conflict.

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And so, we reach this moment of devastating clarity. The persistent strife along this artificial border is not proof that the people have forgotten their historical ties, but rather the very opposite. It is the anguished evidence of a memory that refuses to die. The true path forward was never one of amnesia, but of reconciling an inherited geography of division with an innate geography of unity. The current campaign is the arson of that very possibility.

Therefore, the most piercing questions must be asked, stripped of all diplomatic veneer and directed at the architects of this schism:

👉 *By systematically alienating and destabilizing Afghanistan, what endgame do you envision other than a perpetually hostile and volatile western border?*

👉 *Is the strategic calculation so myopic that it ignores the inevitable blowback, empowering the very extremist forces you claim to fight?*

👉 *How can a nation that was carved from the subcontinent justify a policy that actively Balkanizes its own region, fueling the very centrifugal forces that threaten its own integrity?*

👉👉 *And ultimately... who benefits from this suicidal provocation... the people of Pakistan, or only those whose power depends on a perpetual state of crisis and the patronage of foreign masters?*

This is not statecraft; it is a pact with chaos, and its ultimate victim will be a Pakistan consumed by the fires it so recklessly stokes.

...Concluded.

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TailPiece

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